

EXHIBIT 1



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Katzenberg et al.

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(54) **APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR
REMOTELY POWERING ACCESS
EQUIPMENT OVER A 10/100 SWITCHED
ETHERNET NETWORK**

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1999.
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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **340/310.01**; 340/310.02;
340/310.06; 340/310.07; 379/386; 379/400;
379/32
(58) **Field of Search** 340/310.01, 310.07,
340/825.16, 310.02, 310.06; 379/386, 400,
32

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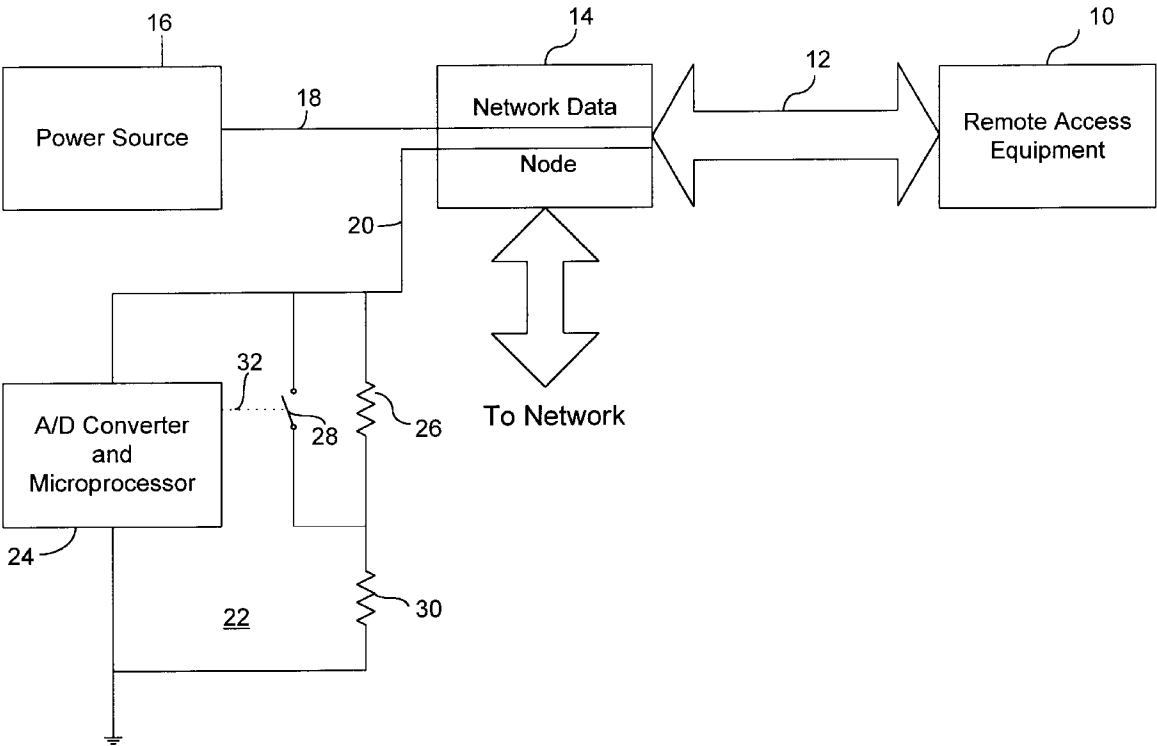
* cited by examiner

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Apparatus for remotely powering access equipment over a 10/100 switched Ethernet network comprises an Ethernet switch card with a phantom power supply for remote access equipment and added circuitry for automatic detection of remote equipment being connected to the network; determining whether the remote equipment is capable of accepting remote power in a non-intrusive manner; delivering the phantom power to the remote equipment over the same wire pairs that deliver the data signals, and automatically detecting if the remote equipment is removed from the network.

9 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets



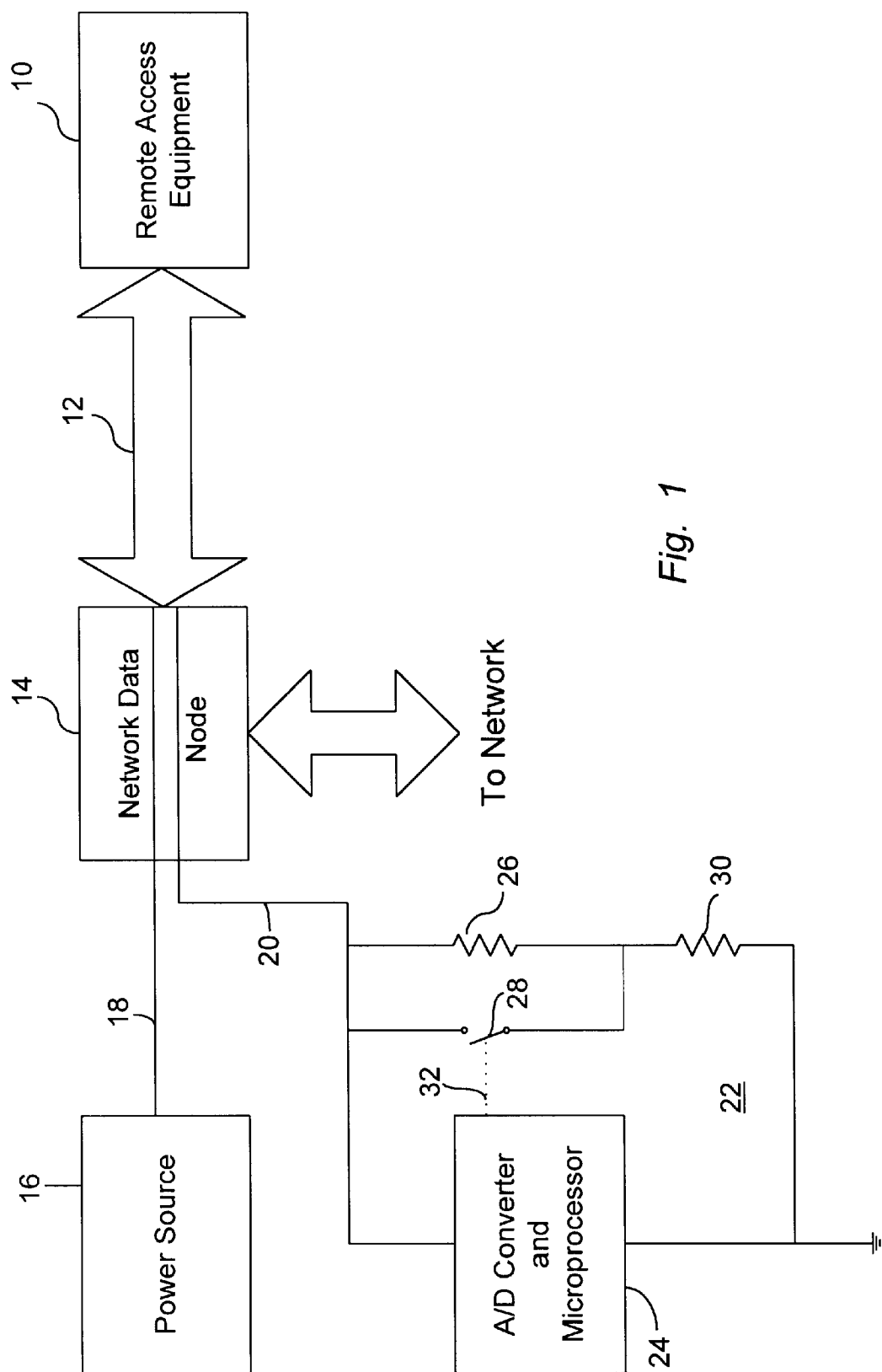


Fig. 1

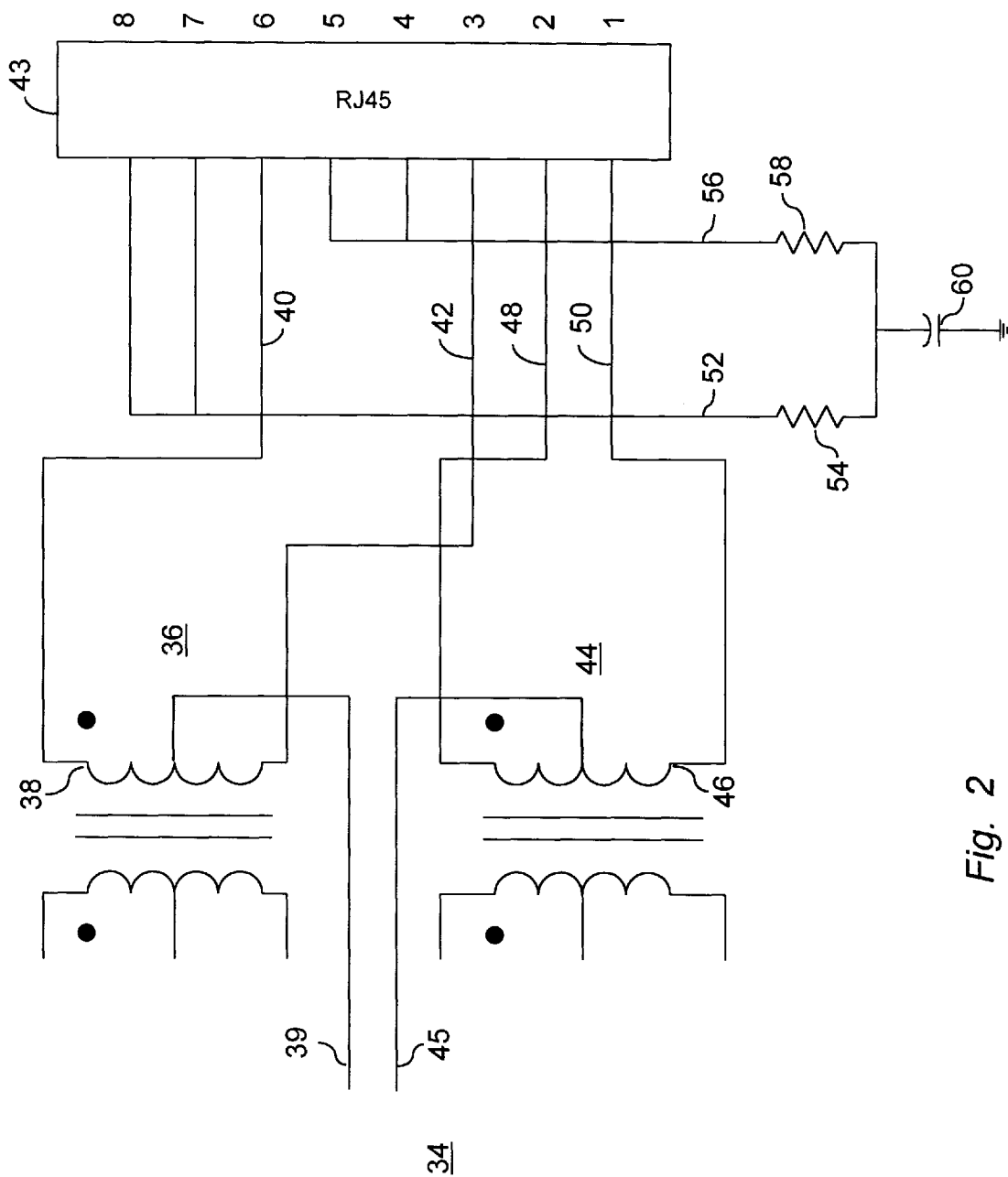


Fig. 2

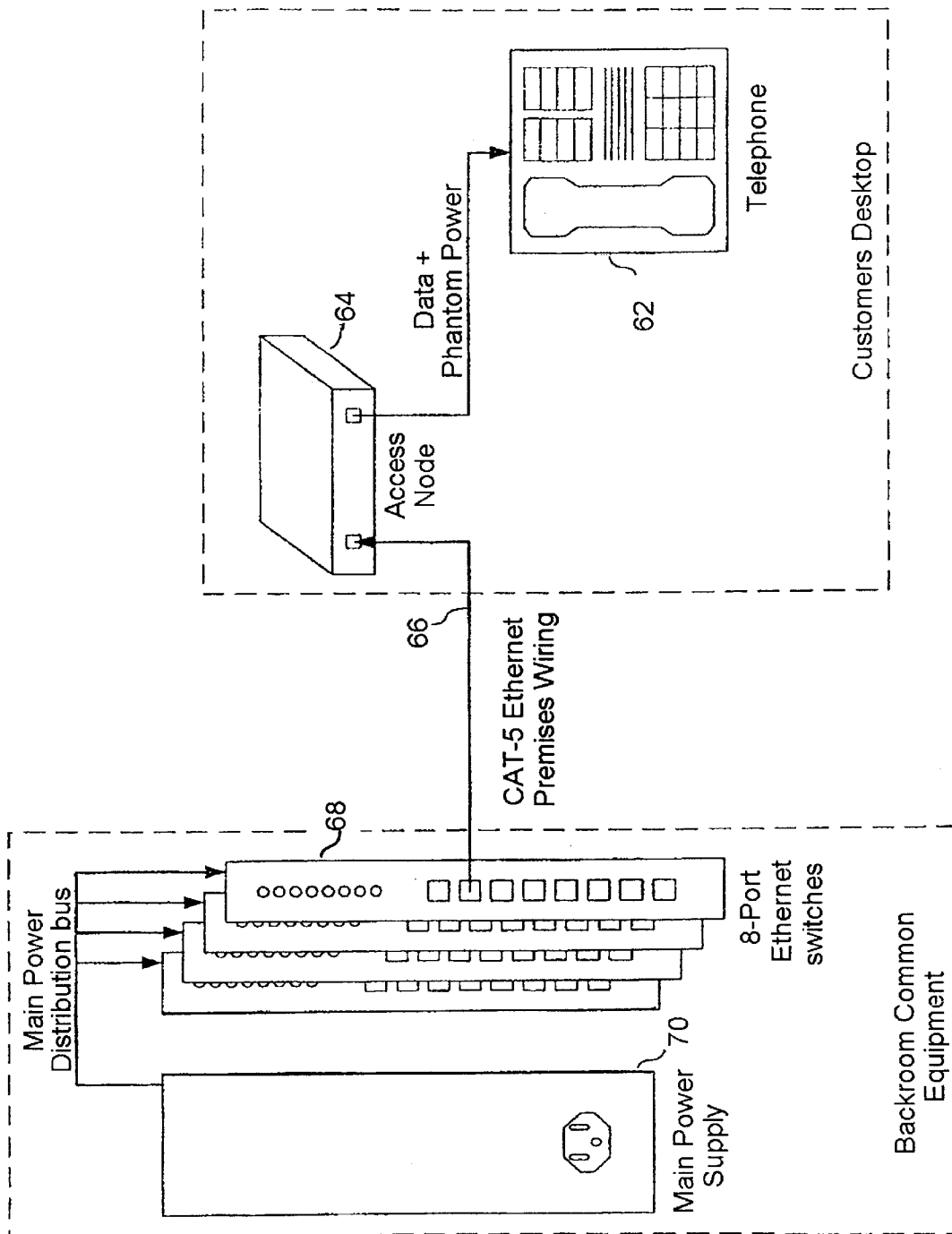


Fig. 3

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**APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR
REMOTELY POWERING ACCESS
EQUIPMENT OVER A 10/100 SWITCHED
ETHERNET NETWORK**

**CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED
APPLICATIONS**

This application claims the benefits of prior filed, appli-
cation Ser. No. 60/123,688 filed Mar. 10, 1999.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention broadly relates to the powering of 10/100
Ethernet compatible equipment. The invention more par-
ticularly relates to apparatus and methods for automatically
determining if remote equipment is capable of remote power
feed and if it is determined that the remote equipment is able
to accept power remotely then to provide power in a reliable
non-intrusive way.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

A variety of telecommunications equipment is remotely
powered today. Telephones and Network Repeater devices
are examples of remotely powered equipment. Obviously
there are many advantages to remotely powering equipment,
however this technique has not migrated to data communi-
cations equipment for several reasons. Data communications
equipment has traditionally required high power levels to
operate which has made it prohibitive to implement. The
widely distributed nature as well as the use of shared media
used in data networks has also made remote power imprac-
tical.

The desire to add remotely powered devices to a data
network is being pushed by the convergence of voice and
data technologies. The advent of IP Telephony, Voice over IP
and Voice over Packet technologies has brought traditional
telephony requirements into the data environment. It is not
desirable to have a phone powered by a local wall trans-
former. It is desirable to have a centrally powered system
that can be protected during a power outage.

It is therefore an object of the invention to provide
methods and apparatus for reliably determining if a remote
piece of equipment is capable of accepting remote power.

It is another object of this invention to provide methods
and apparatus for delivering remote power to remote equip-
ment over 10/100 switched Ethernet segments and maintain
compliance with IEEE 802.3 standards.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In accord with the objects of the invention an apparatus
for remotely powering access equipment over a 10/100
switched Ethernet network comprises: automatic detection
of remote equipment being connected to the network; deter-
mining whether the remote equipment is capable of accept-
ing remote power in a non-intrusive manner; delivering the
power to remote equipment over the same wire pairs that
deliver the data signals; automatic detection of remote
equipment being removed from the network.

The complete apparatus comprises a data node adapted
for data switching, an access device adapted for data
transmission, at least one data signaling pair connected
between the data node and the access device and arranged to
transmit data therebetween, a main power source connected
to supply power to the data node, a secondary power source
arranged to supply power from the data node via the data
signaling pair to the access device, sensing means for

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delivering a low level current from said main power source
to the access device over the data signaling pair and sensing
a resulting voltage level thereon, and control means respon-
sive to said voltage level and adapted to control power
supplied by the secondary power source to said access
device in response to a preselected condition of the voltage
level.

The method includes the steps of delivering a low level
current from the main power source to the access device
over the data signaling pair, sensing a voltage level on the
data signaling pair in response to the low level current, and
controlling power supplied by the secondary power source
to the access device in response to a preselected condition of
the voltage level.

DRAWINGS

The invention will be more clearly understood by refer-
ence to the following description, taken in connection with
the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a simplified schematic diagram of the remote
power automatic detection system of the present invention,
shown in conjunction with a single unit of remote access
equipment connected as part of an Ethernet local area
network,

FIG. 2 is a simplified schematic drawing of a power feed
configuration for supplying power to the remote access
equipment on the local area network, and

FIG. 3 is a simplified physical layout of a portion of a
switched Ethernet network segment showing a telephone
device powered through the network data carrying medium.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED
EMBODIMENT**

Referring now to FIG. 1 of the drawing, a remote access
device 10 which is compatible with 10/100 Ethernet require-
ments is connected through a data communications network
interface adapter to a high data rate network cable 12.
Remote access device 10 requires power to carry out its
operation and includes an internal dc-dc switching supply
which, in the absence of the present invention, would be
supplied by an ac transformer adapter plugged in to the local
110 volt supply. Cable 12 is preferably Category 5 wiring
such as 100BaseX suitable for 100 Mb/s data communi-
cations over a switched Ethernet network, and is connected to
a port in a network data node 14, such as a switch or hub.
Ethernet frames containing data are transmitted over cable
12 between node 14 and device 10, and from node 14 to and
from the network in accordance with selected protocols in a
conventional manner known in the art.

In accordance with the present invention, a power source
16, which may be the same as the conventional main power
supply used to power the node 14, is connected to cable 12
via lines 18 to supply a power level sensing potential to the
remote access equipment 10 over one of the cable conduc-
tors. A return path from remote access equipment 10 is
connected through a lead 20 to an automatic remote power
detector, shown generally as 22. Detector 22 includes an
A/D converter and microprocessor control unit 24, operating
a detection circuit consisting of a resistor 26, with shunting
switch 28, both connected in parallel to a resistor 30,
providing a path to ground. Switch 28 is actually an internal
software controlled switch depicted diagrammatically as
actuated by operator 32.

Automatic detection of remote equipment being con-
nected to the network is accomplished by delivering a low

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level current (approx. 20 ma) to the network interface and measuring a voltage drop in the return path. There are three states which can be determined: no voltage drop, a fixed level voltage drop or a varying level voltage drop. If no voltage drop is detected then the remote equipment does not contain a dc resistive termination, and this equipment is identified as unable to support remote power feed. If a fixed voltage level is detected then the remote equipment contains a dc resistive termination (a “bob smith” is typical for Ethernet terminations), and this equipment is identified as unable to support remote power feed.

If a varying voltage level is detected, this identifies the presence of dc-dc switching supply in the remote equipment. The varying level is created by the remote power supply beginning to start up but the low current level is unable to sustain the start up. This cycle continues to be repeated creating a “sawtooth” voltage level in the return path. When this cycle is confirmed, switch S1 is closed which increases the power output to the remote equipment. When the power to the remote equipment reaches the proper level the remote power supply turns on and the remote equipment becomes active. At this point a second, software level, confirmation takes place. The remote equipment must respond to a poll using a coded response with a unique MAC address. When this process is complete the remote equipment is identified as known access equipment capable of accepting remote power.

Referring now to FIG. 2 of the drawing, a suitable remote power supply is shown generally as 34, which may be conveniently incorporated into an Ethernet 8 port switch card. A first center tap data transformer 36 includes a transformer winding 38 with opposite ends connected by leads 40, 42 to terminals 6, 3 respectively of an RJ45 connector 43. A second center tap transformer 44 with a transformer winding 46 has its opposite ends connected via leads 48, 50 to terminals 2, 1 respectively of the connector 43. Power feed is through a center tap lead 39 and power return is through a center tap lead 45. Inactive terminals 7, 8 of connector 43 are connected via lead 52 to a resistor 54. Inactive terminals 1, 2 of connector 43 are connected via lead 56 to a resistor 58. A junction between resistors 54 and 58 is connected to ground via a capacitor 60.

Remote power is delivered to the remote equipment over the existing data signaling pairs (phantom power feed). Although it is typical that all 8 signal leads are delivered to remote equipment, only the 4 signaling leads are guaranteed in practice. See FIG. 2 for the power feed configuration.

Once the remote equipment is operating and confirmed as a known remote power enabled device, the logic circuit shown in FIG. 1 begins to look for removal of the remote equipment or an overload fault condition. If the measured voltage level drops, then this indicates that the remote equipment has been removed and the logic circuit returns to the initial hunt state. If an overload condition is detected then the logic circuit returns to its initial state. It can then be programmed to either wait for the fault state to be cleared or continue to cycle through the state machine.

FIG. 3 illustrates the physical layout of components corresponding to the schematic diagram of FIG. 1. The remote access equipment in this case is a telephone 62 equipped to handle data communications as well as voice and is connected through an access node 64 to premises wiring 66, comprising a Category 5 Ethernet 100BaseX cable of 4 sets of unshielded twisted pairs, which carry both data and power to the telephone 62. Wiring 66 is connected to one of the ports of an 8 port Ethernet switch 68 which is

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powered from a main power supply 70. The Ethernet switch card incorporates the automatic remote power detector 22 discussed in FIG. 1 and the remote power supply 34 discussed in FIG. 2. The power is provided over the wiring 66 both to the remote access node 64 and telephone 62.

While there is disclosed what is considered to be the preferred embodiment of the invention, other modifications will occur to those skilled in the art.

What is claimed is:

1. Apparatus for remotely powering access equipment in a data network, comprising:

a data node adapted for data switching,
an access device adapted for data transmission,
at least one data signaling pair connected between the data node and the access device and arranged to transmit data therebetween,
a main power source connected to supply power to the data node,
a secondary power source arranged to supply power from the data node via said data signaling pair to the access device,
sensing means for delivering a low level current from said main power source to the access device over said data signaling pair and sensing a resulting voltage level thereon, and
control means responsive to said voltage level and adapted to control power supplied by said secondary power source to said access device in response to a preselected condition of said voltage level.

2. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein there are at least two data signaling pairs connected between the data node and the access device to supply phantom power from the secondary power source to the access device, and wherein said access device includes a pair of data transformers having center taps connected for locally powering the access device.

3. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said preselected condition comprises a varying “sawtooth” voltage level detected by said sensing means which causes said control means to increase the power supply from the secondary power source to the access device.

4. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the data node is an Ethernet switch card incorporating said secondary power supply, said sensing means and said control means.

5. Apparatus according to claim 1, and further including a software program associated with said control means and arranged to poll the access device to identify itself and confirm that it is capable of accepting remote power.

6. Method for remotely powering access equipment in a data network, comprising,

providing a data node adapted for data switching, an access device adapted for data transmission, at least one data signaling pair connected between the data node and the access device and arranged to transmit data therebetween, a main power source connected to supply power to the data node, and a secondary power source arranged to supply power from the data node via said data signaling pair to the access device,
delivering a low level current from said main power source to the access device over said data signaling pair,
sensing a voltage level on the data signaling pair in response to the low level current, and
controlling power supplied by said secondary power source to said access device in response to a preselected condition of said voltage level.

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7. Method according to claim 6, including the step of:
increasing power supplied to the access device in
response to a “sawtooth” voltage level sensed on the
data signaling pair.
8. Method according to claim 6, including the step of 5
polling the access device to identify it and confirm that it is
capable of accepting remote power.

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9. Method according to claim 6, including the step of
continuing to sense voltage level and to decrease power
from the secondary power source if voltage level drops on
the data signaling pair, indicating removal of the access
device.

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